



CDBG At Risk in Lincoln, Nebraska

Housing:

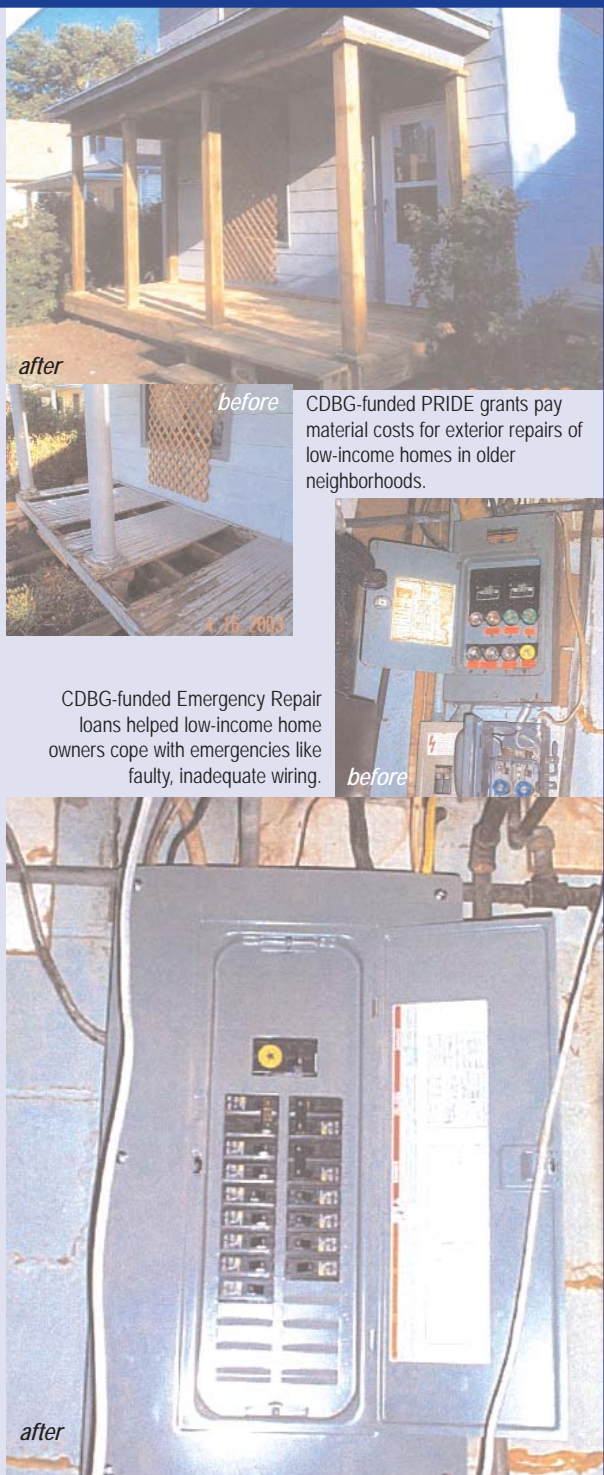
In Lincoln, the greatest part of CDBG and HOME funds are spent on housing. This includes affordable new housing built by non-profit developers, Habitat for Humanity volunteers, and high school students being instructed by professional builders.

Repair of existing housing includes assistance for the low-income home owners and investor-owners with low-income tenants. Repairs encompass housing code compliance and housing quality standards.



Above: First-time home buyers used HOME-funded loans to purchase homes in affordable housing developments

Below: New homes are constructed on former sites of dilapidated, troubled properties which were purchased using HOME funds.



after

before

CDBG-funded PRIDE grants pay material costs for exterior repairs of low-income homes in older neighborhoods.

CDBG-funded Emergency Repair loans helped low-income home owners cope with emergencies like faulty, inadequate wiring.

before

after

At Risk?

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment funds are at risk of being significantly reduced. Lincoln's access to the remaining CDBG & HOME funds may even be completely eliminated.

Why does this matter? Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds have worked hard in Lincoln for 30 years. In just the past four years, Lincoln used \$13.4 million in CDBG and HOME funds to leverage almost \$50 million in private investments. These combined investments have:

- ♦ built and repaired housing,
- ♦ paved streets and sidewalks,
- ♦ created jobs and trained workers,
- ♦ planted trees and built parks, &
- ♦ built community centers and trained leaders.

While CDBG & HOME funds are focused to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, every time a home, a block or a neighborhood is improved, the whole community gains indirectly.

If it matters to you or your organization that CDBG and HOME funds are available to Lincoln, make your opinion heard in the US Congress. Go to www.firstgov.gov for Congressional contact information.

Economic Development:

CDBG funds create economic opportunities in Lincoln -- creating jobs, improving façades, and providing key public improvements. Economic development efforts are focused in the low- to moderate-income parts of the city.



Super Bakes used a job creation loan to develop 11 jobs.



ACTON is using a job creation loan to develop 54 jobs.



The Meeting Place used a façade improvement loan.



CDBG funds added the final touches for the successful reuse of this old bottling plant -- streetscape and parking improvements.



This building was changed from a thrift store to an art gallery using a façade improvement loan.

Neighborhood Revitalization:

Lincoln's CDBG funds have revitalized neighborhoods and local business areas through a planning process that "focuses" public improvements into community-defined, highly visible areas: improving parks and playgrounds, improving street lighting and streetscapes, and encouraging neighborhood leadership.



Above: The South 15th Street Mall was restored to its original character because the Near South Neighborhood made it a top priority.



Above: Arnold Heights Neighborhood used CDBG funds and many different resources to create a playground near their elementary school.



Streetscape improvements help neighborhood commercial areas stay vibrant and viable -- a plus to the surrounding neighborhoods and the whole city.

Who Benefits?

CDBG & HOME funds are focused to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, but every time a home, a block or a neighborhood is improved, the whole community gains indirectly.



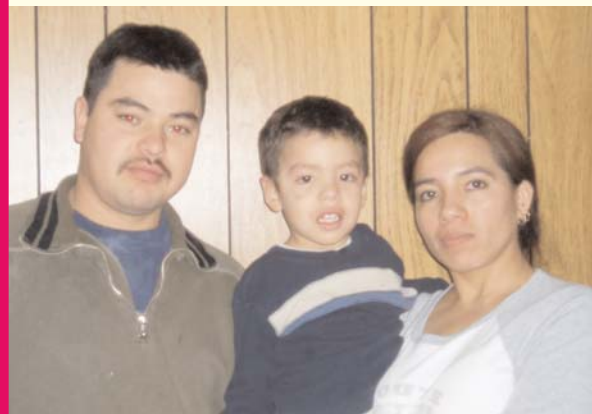
Without the education and opportunities Neighborhoods, Inc. provided, I may never have owned my own home. With their help, becoming a home owner was a positive and rewarding experience.

-- Pam, a first-time home buyer, used CDBG-funded programs to make her dream a reality.



...the CDBG Program has been absolutely vital to the successful creation of two Universal Companies. As a result, there are now 105 new jobs in place and 25 - 50 more planned in the next year. From the perspective of cost to benefit ratio, few government programs can come close to this level of performance.

-- John H. Jacobson, President of Universal Companies, LLC, used a CDBG-funded loan program to expand.



You saved our lives! The headaches are gone, literally and figuratively. Our new furnace is working great and we are no longer inhaling carbon monoxide.

-- Onesimo & Aquilina used a CDBG-funded emergency repair loan to replace their malfunctioning furnace.



These are fantastic programs! They improved Tia's and my quality of life so much! I couldn't have made the improvements on my own. Tia is so proud of doing more things for herself.

-- Judy used the CDBG- and HOME-funded loan programs to make improvements, some of which helped Tia, her developmentally disabled daughter, be more self-sufficient.

Community Catalysts:

CDBG and HOME have served as catalysts for many projects that were not directly funded.

Triggered by CDBG and HOME activities, community action and staff involvement, many amazing things have been accomplished.



Above: Home buyers are encouraged to buy homes in older neighborhoods through "Heart of Lincoln" activities like home tours and home maintenance classes.

Above, right: This vehicular overpass was designed and positioned to best suit the surrounding neighborhood due to staff and resident involvement that began with a CDBG-funded neighborhood plan.

Right: Staff efforts to keep communication flowing between developers, local retailers and area residents led to a much needed local grocery store in the Clinton Neighborhood.



The Northbridge Community Center began as a need identified by CDBG-funded staff.

